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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
Research and Analysis Branch

R & A No. 2960.3

EUROPEAN AXIS MANPOWER SUMMARY: GERMAN POPULATION DEVELOPMENT AND VITAL STATISTICS: JANUARY 1939 THROUGH JANUARY 1945 BY REGIONS

Description

An analysis, with graphic presentation, of the population of Greater Germany, its yearly development and position as of January 1945.

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25 April 1945

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NOTE

The European Axis Manpower Summary consists of five parts, issued separately. These are:

R&A Report No. 2960.1 The Over-all Manpower Position

R&A Report No. 2960.2 Interest Groups in Germany

R&A Report No. 2960.3 German Population Development and Vital Statistics

R&A Report No. 2960.4 The German Armed Forces and Satellite Forces

R&A Report No. 2960.5 The German Civilian Labor Force

The reader is referred to the parts of this series other than the present one for analyses of the subjects indicated.

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EUROPEAN AXIS MANPOWER SUMMARY: GERMAN POPULATION DEVELOPMENT AND VITAL STATISTICS, JANUARY 1939 TO JANUARY 1945

I. THE AGE-STRUCTURE AND SEX-STRUCTURE OF THE GERMAN POPULATION, 1910-1945

At the beginning of the last war the age-structure of the German population had the character of a pyramid, with a relatively smooth decline of numbers with increasing age, as indicated in Chart I on the following page.[1] This is the age-structure to be expected in an expanding population in which the normal reduction of the number of people per birth-class by ordinary mortality had progressed for some time.

The decline in the birth rate was probably the most costly population loss suffered by Germany in the last war. Visual evidence of the effect of this decline is given in Chart II on the age structure of the German population in 1939 on the second page following. The classes at that time aged 19 through 23 are abnormally small, and thus the birth deficit during the last war meant that Germany was short approximately one and a half million men in the most important age classes at the inception of this war. On the other hand those classes which suffered direct military losses in the last war were age 39 or over in 1939 and thus no longer of real military significance.

1. This pyramid had one minor "flaw" resulting from the decline in births during the Franco-Prussian war of 1870.

At the beginning of this war the Nazis were determined that the same mistake would not be repeated, and the development of births during the present war indicates that they have had a great measure of success. A positive policy to prevent a decline in the birth rate which involved furloughs for soldiers, more than adequate allowances for soldiers families, and deferment of women with children under 14 from labor mobilization kept the decline in the birth rate within limits. The birth rate declined from 26.8 per thousand in 1914 to 13.9 per thousand in 1917, and from 20.4 per thousand in 1939 to 15.2 per thousand in 1942 and 16.1 per thousand in 1943. For a period in 1941 and 1942 it appeared as if the experience of the last war were going to be repeated, but the downward trend from 1940 through 1941 and 1942 was reversed in 1943. In January 1944 the birth rate was as high as the rate in January 1941, when the mobilization of soldiers for the campaign against the Soviet Union had not begun to affect the birth rate. Table 1 on the following page indicates German population development from January 1939 to February 1944. Preliminary reports for the first three quarters of 1944 indicate that the birth rate during 1944 was slightly higher than in 1943.

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Table 1. GERMAN POPULATION DEVELOPMENT, JANUARY 1939-FEBRUARY 1944[a]

Month	Births		Civilian Deaths		Marriages	
	Number	Annual rate per 1000 population	Number	Annual rate per 1000 population	Number	Annual rate per 1000 population
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1939						
January	134,136	19.8	96,757	14.3	45,992	6.8
February	128,200	20.9	98,627	16.1	60,171	9.8
March	143,638	21.2	98,942	14.6	57,894	8.5
April	139,303	21.2	86,344	13.1	81,337	12.4
May	140,648	20.7	85,364	12.6	87,776	12.9
June	134,215	20.4	80,183	12.2	63,518	9.7
July	140,573	20.7	73,547	10.8	71,957	10.6
August	137,175	20.2	72,086	10.6	73,734	10.9
September	136,172	20.7	67,580	10.3	83,771	12.8
October	135,203	19.9	80,693	11.9	98,994	14.6
November	127,198	19.4	78,786	12.0	100,089	15.2
December	137,264	20.2	90,424	13.3	119,129	17.6
1940						
January	150,104	21.9	113,253	16.5	70,196	10.2
February	151,662	23.7	107,003	16.7	74,557	11.6
March	157,060	22.9	103,206	15.1	95,867	14.0
April	155,060	23.4	101,849	15.4	64,849	9.8
May	143,357	20.9	91,318	13.3	65,449	9.6
June	114,494	17.3	77,213	11.6	47,240	7.1
July	129,328	18.5	72,199	10.3	39,637	5.7
August	130,681	19.1	71,069	10.4	52,811	7.7
September	140,620	21.2	70,433	10.6	45,970	6.9
October	128,163	18.7	73,773	11.4	50,253	7.3
November	117,935	17.8	76,272	11.5	54,175	8.2
December	126,288	18.4	88,120	12.9	70,396	10.3
1941						
January	121,514	17.7	99,285	14.4	43,201	6.3
February	107,380	17.3	105,152	16.9	59,799	9.6
March	113,650	16.5	96,213	14.0	70,227	10.2
April	122,082	18.4	86,140	12.9	54,358	8.2
May	146,089	21.3	85,176	12.4	55,563	8.1
June	133,780	20.1	76,133	11.4	36,235	5.4
July	135,776	19.7	73,998	10.7	39,996	5.8
August	132,638	19.2	68,884	10.0	46,803	6.8
September	151,257	22.7	69,101	10.4	41,802	6.3
October	128,164	18.6	72,784	10.6	43,770	6.3
November	116,255	17.4	77,998	11.7	44,874	6.7
December	119,440	17.3	84,434	12.2	52,967	7.7

Table 1. (Cont'd)

Month	Births		Civilian Deaths		Marriages	
	Number	Annual rate per 1000 population	Number	Annual rate per 1000 population	Number	Annual rate per 1000 population
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1942						
January	113,113	16.4	95,778	13.9	37,463	5.4
February	101,190	16.2	90,052	14.6	40,340	6.5
March	106,985	15.5	92,082	13.4	44,667	6.5
April	101,985	15.3	85,642	12.8	50,861	7.6
May	109,266	15.8	85,436	12.3	62,184	9.0
June	104,198	15.6	76,172	11.4	47,940	7.1
July	102,410	14.8	74,041	10.7	50,215	7.2
August	101,691	14.7	73,175	10.6	52,870	7.6
September	111,832	15.6	73,420	12.2	51,008	7.6
October	97,356	14.1	78,534	11.3	57,843	8.3
November	88,714	13.2	77,990	11.6	48,913	7.3
December	99,361	14.3	87,762	12.7	62,587	9.0
1943						
January	103,722	14.9	89,221	12.9	39,423	5.7
February	107,792	17.2	77,212	12.3	40,970	6.5
March	119,084	17.2	92,426[b]	13.3	48,004	6.9
April	111,252	16.6	85,225	12.7	55,361	8.3
May	112,336	16.2	82,385	11.9	52,820	7.6
June	104,762	15.6	74,969	11.1	58,216	8.7
July	108,390	15.6	73,349	10.5	53,458	7.7
August	107,009	15.4	76,831	11.0	47,051	6.8
September	121,168	18.0	71,839	10.7	45,699	6.8
October	108,469	15.6	80,813	11.6	50,055	7.2
November	101,667	15.1	86,763	13.0	43,349	6.4
December	111,027	16.0	105,014	15.1	56,440	8.1
1944[c]						
January	121,796	17.7	110,336	15.5	37,374	5.4
February	119,472	18.5	100,413	15.6	39,359	6.1

a. Germany, exclusive of the incorporated Polish territory and Eupen-Malmedy.

b. Civilian deaths due to enemy action are excluded from March 1943 on.

c. Realized absolute monthly birth and death statistics for the remainder of 1944 have not yet become available. Table 2 following, however, contains an estimate for this period based on published preliminary quarterly birth and death figures for 1944.

nation is very unfavorable. The German population was approaching a stationary or declining state before the present war, and the losses of the war will, therefore, be reflected in a heavy absolute decline during the next generation in the population in the productive ages and particularly in military manpower. Furthermore, because of the cumulative effects of the last and present wars on the reproductive power of the German population, these losses cannot be made good within the foreseeable future.

The development of marriages and deaths presents very little in the way of departure from normality. There was the usual increase in the marriage rate at the outbreak of war. The decline in marriages from this peak is not significant in view of the large numbers of men who were already married.

In Chart III on the following page there is presented a pyramid representing the age and sex structure of the German population on 1 January 1945 after allowance for 4.3 million men killed in the armed forces. A comparison of this chart with Chart I reveals what two wars have done to the age-structure and sex-structure of the German population.

II. BIRTHS AND CIVILIAN DEATHS IN ALTREICH GERMANY, BY ZONE, 1939 TO 1945

In general the natural population development of each of the four proposed zones of occupation[1] tends to correspond

1. For the definitions of these regions see prefatory note to the first report in this series, R&A Report No. 2960.1.

closely to that of the whole Reich. Superimposed on this, however, is the effect of internal migration due to the movement of air-raid evacuees.

Table 2 on the following page indicates birth and death rates in the Altreich and in the several regions from 1939 to 1945. In May 1939 the Eastern region contained 35.7 percent of all the Altreich population, the Northwestern region 34.7 percent, the Southwestern region 23.3 percent, and Berlin 6.3 percent. In 1939 there was close agreement in the proportion which population, births, and deaths in each of the three principal zones was of the total for the Altreich, with the exception that deaths in the Northwest region were low in proportion to population. As was to be expected in an urban area, births were low and deaths high in Berlin relative to the total population.

From 1939 to 1943 the proportion which births and deaths constituted of the total for the Altreich declined slightly in the Southwest region and Berlin, significantly in the Northwest region, and rose in the Eastern region. In all cases there was a greater change in births than in deaths. This is explicable in terms of the evacuation of children and women who were not gainfully active.

III. POPULATION DEVELOPMENT OF ALTREICH GERMANY, BY ZONES, 17 MAY 1939 TO 1 JANUARY 1945

Table 3 on the second page following shows the develop-

(Text continued on p. 11)

Table 2. BIRTHS AND CIVILIAN DEATHS[a] IN ALTREICH GERMANY, BY REGION, 1939 TO 1945

(In thousands)

BIRTHS

Year	Southwestern region		Northwestern region		Eastern region		City of Berlin		Total Altreich	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1939	341,612	24.2	487,206	34.5	511,173	36.2	71,705	5.1	1,411,696	100.0
1940	336,700	24.0	491,976	35.0	500,926	35.7	74,371	5.3	1,403,973	100.0
1941	308,042	23.7	445,064	34.2	476,076	36.5	72,685	5.6	1,301,867	100.0
1942	244,011	23.0	363,132	34.3	384,782	36.3	67,640	6.4	1,059,565	100.0
1943	264,110	23.4	362,795	32.1	446,768	39.6	55,146	4.9	1,128,819	100.0
1944[b]	280,730	....	385,584	....	474,841	....	58,545	...	1,199,700	

DEATHS

Year	Southwestern region		Northwestern region		Eastern region		City of Berlin		Total Altreich	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1939	205,467	24.0	279,016	32.6	308,388	36.1	62,541	7.3	855,412	100.0
1940	205,769	23.2	288,039	32.4	329,226	37.0	65,983	7.4	889,017	100.0
1941	190,743	23.7	275,431	32.6	309,968	36.8	57,904	6.9	843,046	100.0
1942	195,024	23.0	276,307	32.6	313,885	37.0	62,840	7.4	848,056	100.0
1943	202,409	23.6	271,141	31.7	324,781	38.0	57,290	6.7	855,621	100.0
1944[b]	203,505	....	272,688	....	326,640	....	57,653	...	860,486	

a. Exclusive of civilian deaths due to enemy action after February 1943.

b. Births and deaths in 1944 have been estimated for the Altreich on the basis of published preliminary data for the first three quarters of 1944. The distribution by region is the same as that for 1943.

SOURCE: Wirtschaft und Statistik

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Table 3. GERMAN POPULATION DEVELOPMENT BY REGION, MAY 1939 TO JANUARY 1945

(In thousands)

	Northwestern region	Southwestern region	Eastern region	City of Berlin	Total
I. Population 17 May 1939	24,065	16,187	24,726	4,339	69,317
Percent of total Altreich	34.72	23.35	35.67	6.26	100.00
II. Losses, May 1939-January 1945					
A. Losses in armed forces					
1) Dead	1,363	889	1,363	235	3,850
2) Prisoners of war	495	322	495	85	1,397
B. Civilian deaths, normal	1,495	1,089	1,728	327	4,639
C. Excess civilian deaths	96	17	7	36	156
D. Emigres, colonists, deported	106	88	97	79	370
E. Net air-raid evacuees	2,946	...	...	2,000	4,946
F. Total losses	6,501	2,405	3,690	2,762	5,358
III. Gains					
A. Births	2,234	1,563	2,478	355	6,630
B. Foreigners and prisoners of war	2,540	1,610	2,870	400	7,420
C. Repatriates, Volksdeutsche	20	40	60	...	120
D. Net reception of air-raid evacuees	...	306	2,550	...	2,856
E. Total gains	4,794	3,519	7,958	755	17,026
IV. Estimated population 1 January 1945	22,358	17,301	28,994	2,332	70,985
of which					
A. Presently in armed forces	1,499	981	1,509	243	4,232
V. Estimated civilian population 1 January 1945	20,859	16,320	27,485	2,089	66,753
Percent of total Altreich	31.25	24.45	41.17	3.13	100.00

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NOTES TO TABLE 3

I Results of the census of 17 May 1939 published in Wirtschaft und Statistik, I, May 1940, I, July 1940, and II, August 1940.

II A.1. and 2. both are OSS estimates. They have been distributed to the four regions in proportion to males of military age.

B. See Table 2.

C. Deaths from bombing to January 1945 have been estimated on the basis of a study made by the British Ministry of Home Security. This study estimated the number killed through July 1944 by relating bomb-tonnage dropped to the number killed. The last five months of the year have been estimated assuming an increase of 30 percent over the total through July.

D. This figure is composed of an estimated 190,000 deported Jews plus 180,000 colonists (62,000 families) in the Warthegau. See R&A Report No. 2675. Deported Jews were apportioned among regions in proportion to the number of persons professing synagogue membership in each region on 17 May 1939. It is believed that most of those deported have been killed and thus constitute a permanent loss to the population.

Two OSS reports during 1943 and a report from Ostdeutscher Beobachter, 4 July 1943 state that about 62,000 German families from Altreich were colonized in the Warthegau. This has been expanded to 180,000 which is probably a conservative estimate.

E. Net air-raid evacuees have been estimated from the following gross estimates of air-raid evacuation movements:

Region	Gross Evacuation	Gross Reception	Net Evacuation
Northwestern	4,221,000	1,275,000	-2,946,000
Southwestern	1,082,000	1,388,000	+ 306,000
Eastern	450,000	5,000,000	+2,550,000
City of Berlin	2,000,000	....	-2,000,000
Other (Austria, W. Poland, Czechoslovakia)	....	2,090,000	+2,090,000

These estimates have been carried forward from previous estimates based on Displacement of Population in Germany, SHAEF G-5, prepared by MEW and approved by EWD, US Embassy, London.

III A. See Table 2.

B. OSS estimates. See Table 2 in R & A Report No. 2960, The Civilian Labor Force.

C. OSS estimates, based on data for Volksdeutsche who were returned to the Reich and who, unlike the bulk of repatriated Volksdeutsche were not recolonized in the Warthegau.

D. See II E.

IV A. See R & A Report No. 2960, The German Armed Forces. The distribution by region is in proportion to the number of males 18 to 45 on May 1939.

ment of the population of the four German regions from the date of the last census, 17 May 1939, to January 1945.

Incorporated in the table, in addition to natural change for the five-and-one-half year period, are figures representing the abnormal influences on the population, i.e., losses in the armed forces, deaths from bombing, inter-regional population displacement, and the reception of foreign workers and prisoners of war, etc.

Total population (excluding those serving in the armed forces) on 1 January 1945 showed an estimated net loss of almost three million since 17 May 1939. This total is shown as distributed on 1 January 1945 among the several regions in a somewhat changed proportion; whereas in 1939 the Northwestern and Eastern regions constituted approximately 34.7 percent and 35.7 percent respectively of the total population, these regions on 1 January 1945 were about 31.2 percent and 41.2 percent of the total. The proportion represented by the Southwestern region between 1939 and 1945 remained about the same, while that of the City of Berlin dropped sharply from 6.3 percent to 3.1 percent. A major share of these shifts can be attributed to the precautionary movement of population as well as those under direct bombing attack, although, as can be seen from Table 3, the cumulative effect of other smaller influences also has been appreciable. The absolute decline in

the civilian population was caused chiefly by inductions in to the armed forces only partially counterbalanced by the very large influx of foreigners and prisoners of war.

Explanations of the derivation of the figures shown in Table 3 are given in the footnotes directly following the table.

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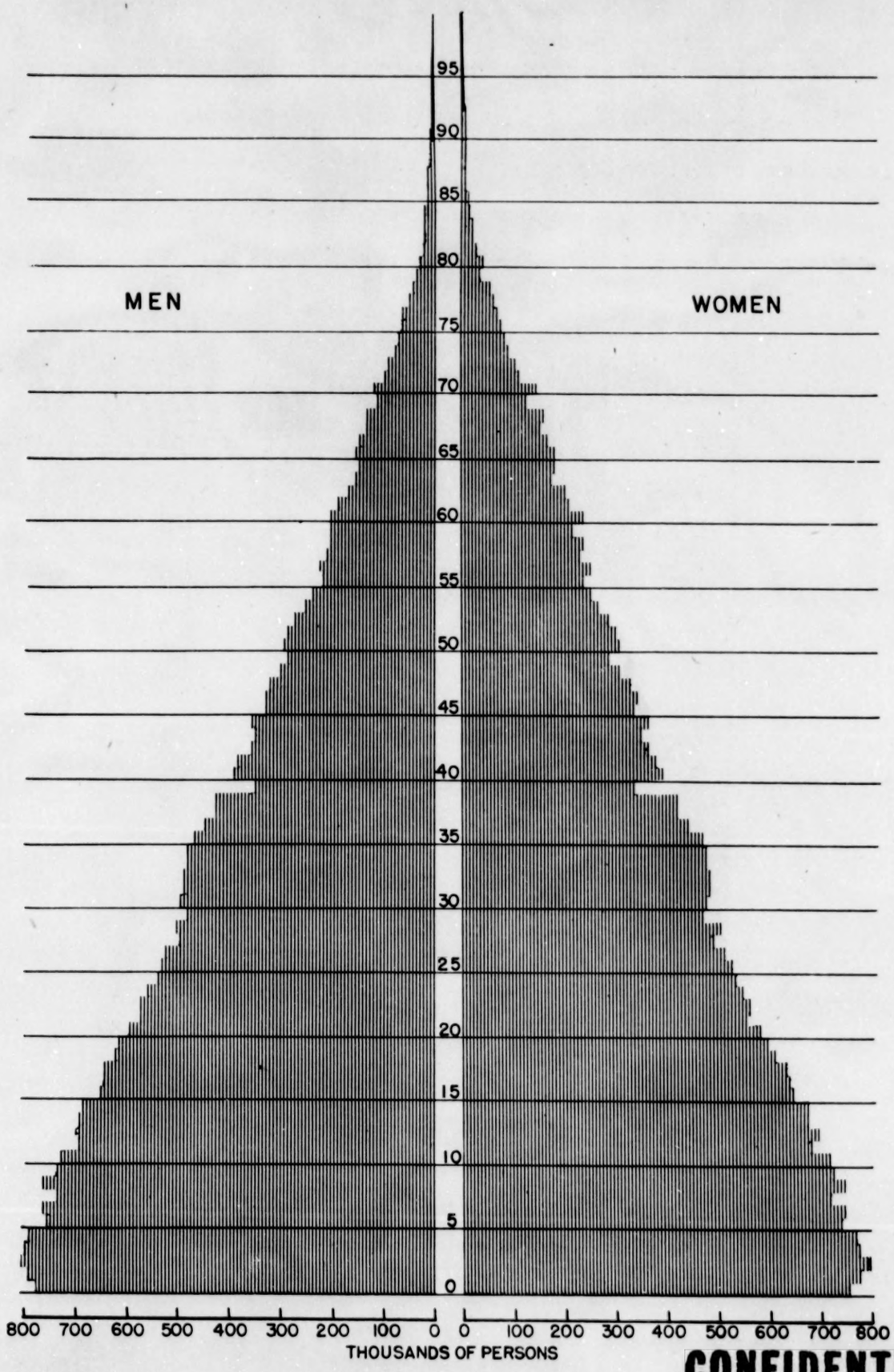
CHART I

THE POPULATION OF GERMANY, 1910, BY SINGLE YEARS



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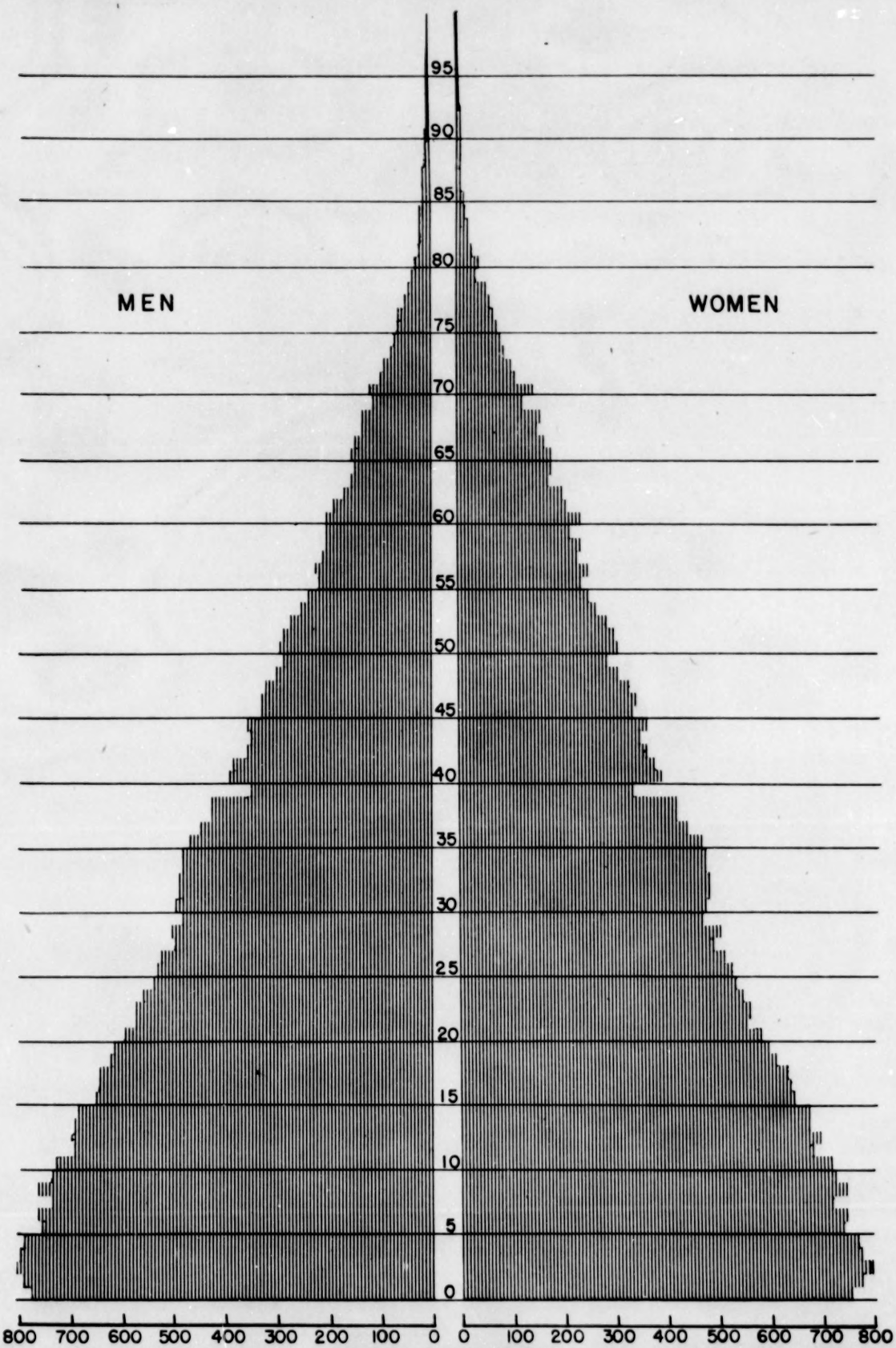

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CHART II

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THE POPULATION OF GREATER GERMANY, 1939, BY SINGLE YEARS

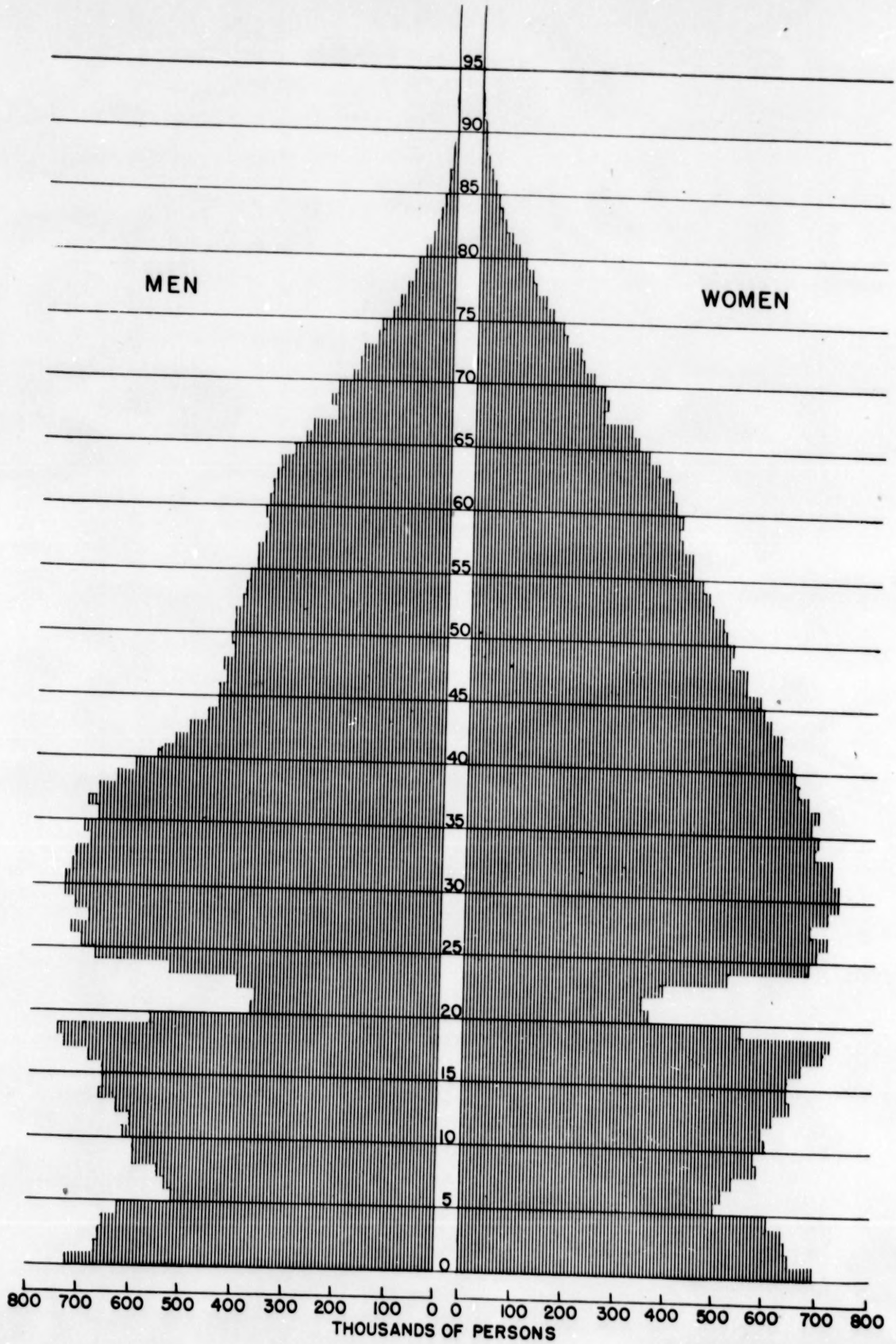

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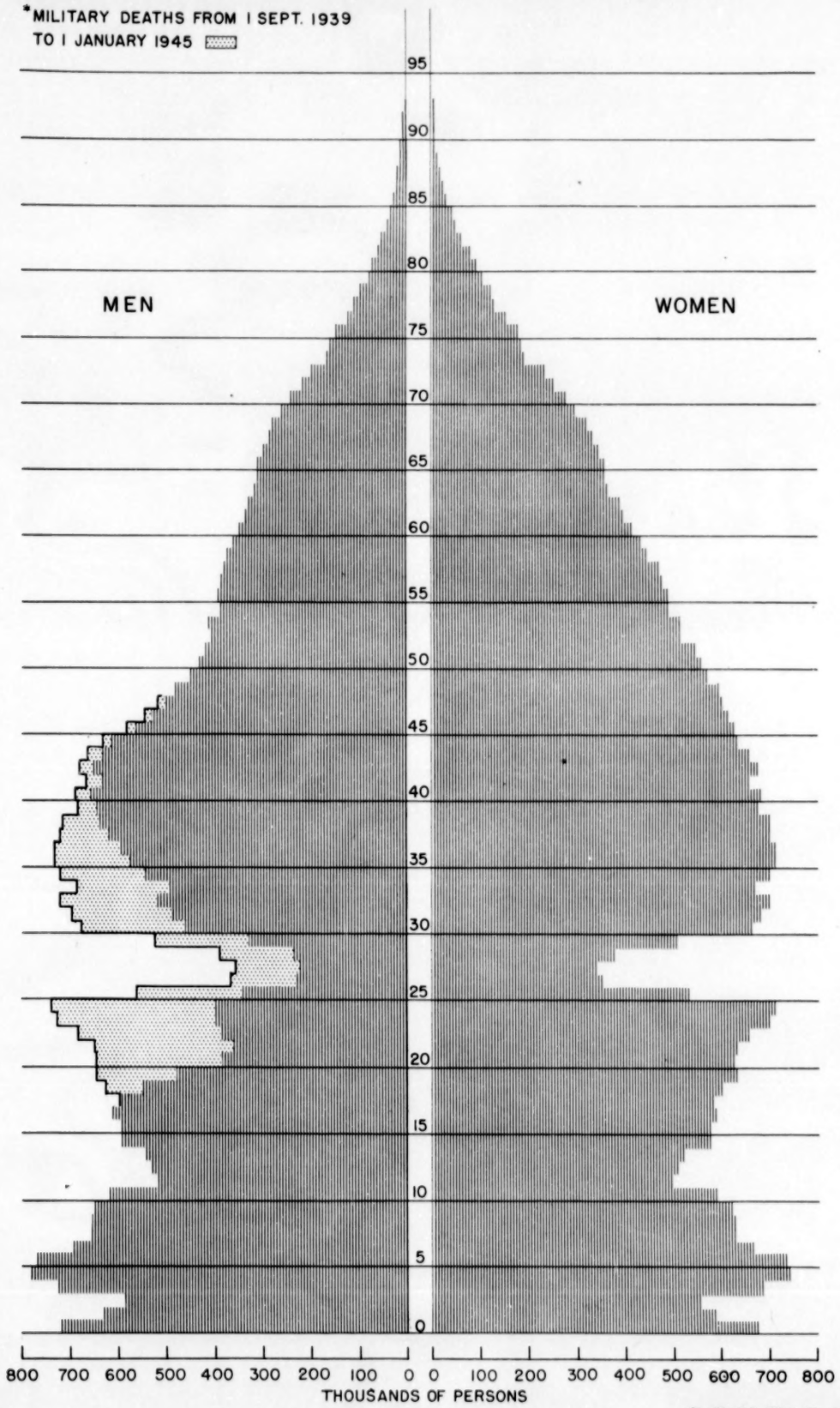
CHART III

THE ESTIMATED POPULATION OF GREATER GERMANY 1 JANUARY 1945, AFTER MILITARY DEATHS* BY SINGLE YEARS



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